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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 16 March 55

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1. Cong. James P. Richards of South Carolina, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will be the guest at the Director's luncheon on 21 March. The DDCI, the Acting DD/I, DD/S, and DD/P have been invited. In 1954 Mr. Richards introduced H. Con. Res. 216, to establish a 10-member Joint Committee on Central Intelligence, but he has not reintroduced any such bill in the present Congress. He has also just introduced H. R. 4941, to revise the Foreign Service Act, and has just concluded lengthy hearings on this subject. The Chairman also made an extended trip last fall, emphasizing the Far East and Southern Asia.

2. Mr. Ashcraft expressed concern regarding the CIA provisions in S. 750 along the same lines as those expressed by Mr. Monagan of G-2. (See item No. 1 in Journal of 15 March). Mr. Ashcraft underlined the additional thought that these sections might render it difficult for the [redacted] in administering NSCID No. 7. Mr. Alberti of ONI had also been in touch with Mr. Ashcraft on this subject. It was pointed out to Mr. Ashcraft that the subsection which was causing him the greatest concern was merely a re-enactment of the present statute which had been law since 1950 and that we did not believe that the additional subsection which was being added would in any way add to his burden. Subsequently Mr. Monagan called me to state that he had heard that our Mr. Ashcraft was concerned about the bill, but I assured him that Mr. Ashcraft's fears had been allayed. Mr. Ashcraft subsequently told me that Mr. Alberti had pointed out that when this section had been included in the Internal Security Act of 1950 it had been the most innocuous section in a highly controversial omnibus bill which had been vetoed by the President. Now, however, it was a smaller bill which might draw more attention and unfavorable comment. Mr. Ashcraft assured Mr. Alberti that all efforts would be taken to keep the hearing as quiet as possible. It should also be noted that the Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee which had opposed the new section of the bill no longer held that position, which might make for easier sledding.

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